

Message Text

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SUBJ: ESCAP REGIONAL POST WORLD POPULATION CONFERENCE CONSULTA-
TION BANGKOK JANUARY 14-20, 1975

1. RTG MIN. HEALTH DR. UDOM POSHAKRISHNA OPENED CONSULTATION FOLLOWED BY REMARKS FROM EXECUTIVE SECRETARY ESCAP. MARAMIS' STATEMENT STRONGLY SUPPORTED PROGRAMS DESIGNED FOR CONTROLLING POPULATION GROWTH. MERCEDES CONCEPCION PHILIPPINES AND MUKTA MASOOD PAKISTAN ELECTED VICE CHAIRMEN. 26 COUNTRIES WERE REPRESENTED AT THE CONSULTATION. NOTABLE ABSENCES INCLUDED PRC AND SRI LANKA. REPRESENTATIVES INCLUDED TWO DEPUTY MINISTERS. OTHER GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES INCLUDED SWEDEN (WAHREN) AND CANADA (DOBSON). ALSO PRESENT WERE REPRESENTATIVES FROM IBRD (KANAGARATNAM) UNDP, UNICEF, IPPF, IGCC POPULATION COUNCIL, FORD AND ROCKEFELLER FOUNDATIONS. UNFPA, WHICH SPONSORED CONSULTATION, WAS REPRESENTED BY G. GILLE DEPUTY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR.

2. FIRST DAY DEVOTED TO COUNTRY COMMENTS WHICH WITH EXCEPTION OF STATEMENT BY INDIA (DESAI) WERE IN AGGREGATE EXPRESSIONS OF GENERAL SATISFACTION WITH WORLD POPULATION CONFERENCE AND PLAN OF ACTION (WPPA). IN SHARP CONTRAST, AND IN WHAT HE TERMED A PRELIMINARY AND PERSONAL STATEMENT, INDIA ALTERNATE
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REPRESENTATIVE DESAI REHASHED DISAGREEMENTS OF BUCHAREST AND

CONTENDED THIS WAS CONSENSUS. INDIAN FORMAL STATEMENT NEXT DAY
BY DEPUTY MINISTER HEALTH & FP ISHAQUE LESS ARGUMENTATIVE.

3. MEETING GAVE NO SUPPORT FOR DESAI VIEWS. RTG ALTERNATE REPRESENTATIVE MES. WANGLEE VOICED FEELING OF MOST DELEGATES, US DEL. BELIEVES, BY NOTING THAT CONSENSUS AT BUCHAREST WAS NOT ON DISAGREEMENT BUT ON WPPA WHICH WAS MAJOR ACHIEVEMENT EVEN THOUGH NOT EXACTLY THE TYPE DOCUMENT SOME ESCAP MEMBERS DESIRED. SHE URGED ARGUMENTS BE LEFT BEHIND. SHE RECOMMENDED MEETING INITIATE ACTIONS TO IMPLEMENT WPPA.

4. DEVELOPED COUNTRY STATEMENTS (JAPAN, UK, US) WERE BRIEF AND LOW KEY. UK REPRESENTATIVE COOPER MIN. OVERSEAS DEVELOPMENT REPORTED HIS GOVERNMENT HAD REVIEWED ASSISTANCE POLICY AND ANNOUNCED THAT SUBSTANTIAL INCREASE WAS FORTHCOMING. HE INVITED ESCAP COUNTRY PROPOSALS FOR ASSISTANCE. IN SEPARATED DISCUSSION WITH US DEL. COOPER INDICATED THAT MULTILATERAL ASSISTANCE FOR EXAMPLE IPPF AND UNFPA MIGHT BE APPROXIMATELY 50 PERCENT ABOVE 1974 LEVELS.

5. SINCE THIS FIRST ATTEMPT TO RELATE WPPA TO COUNTRY PRIORITIES AND RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS IT NOT SURPRISING THAT MUCH DISCUSSION ENSUED RE NEXT STEPS AND WHAT SUBJECT CONSULTATION SHOULD DO. DELEGATES SAW NEED TO EXPRESS COUNTRY VIEWS RE THEIR PRIORITIES AND HOW ADAPT SPPA TO ASIA.

6. THREE WORKING GROUP DESIGNED PLANS FOR GENERAL ACTIONS IN LINE WITH WPPA RECOMMENDATIONS EMPHASIZING PRIORITIES DESIRED. MANY REQUESTS FOR OUTSIDE ASSISTANCE TABLED. PARTICULAR ATTENTION GIVEN TO PROPOSAL FOR REVIEW OF FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS OF ESCAP DEVELOPING COUNTRIES HFHNXFION PROGRAMS AND POTENTIAL AVAILABILITIES OF FUNDS AS DESCRIBED WPPA PARA 105. US DEL STRESSED NEED FOR SUCH APPRAISAL AND ALSO FOR INCREASED ALLOCATIONS BY BOTH LDCS FOR THEIR EXPANDING PROGRAMS AND OTHER DONOR COUNTRIES AND ORGANIZATIONS.
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